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No. IV.

PUNCTURING FORCEPS.

The LARGE SILVER MEDAL was presented to CAPTAIN BAGNOLD, R.N., 7 High Row, Knightsbridge, for his Anatomical Puncturing Forceps, for preventing accidents in sewing up bodies after post-mortem examinations.

7 High Row, Knightsbridge,
SIR, January 20th, 1834.

THE numerous and frequently fatal accidents that happen to the surgical profession from the inoculation of morbific matter in the pursuit of pathological examinations being too well known to require any demonstration from me, I beg to lay before the Society a new instrument which I have invented for the purpose of preventing such inconvenient and melancholy results. It has been exhibited and used by myself in the presence of several professional gentlemen, who highly approve of it; and I am convinced it will completely prevent the possibility of accident in the most dangerous part of *post-mortem* examinations, viz. the operation of sewing up the body.

The forceps are to be held in the left hand; the lower or projecting jaw pushes back the fat under the skin, and when the instrument is closed a puncture is made through the integuments. A slight pull by the hand of the operator enlarges the puncture sufficiently to allow the passage of a *blunt needle instead of a pointed one*. The instrument is suffered to expand by means of its spring; and a hold being again taken on the opposite flap of the

incision, the ligature is again passed; and the operator may place the stitches within one-eighth of an inch of each other, if he thinks it requisite, without the necessity of once bringing his fingers in contact with the subject, and in half the time that it can be done by the needle as hitherto used. A veterinary surgeon to whom I have shewn it is of opinion that it is admirably adapted for sewing up incised wounds in horses, and other cattle, whose strength and restlessness renders the operation difficult with the usual needle.

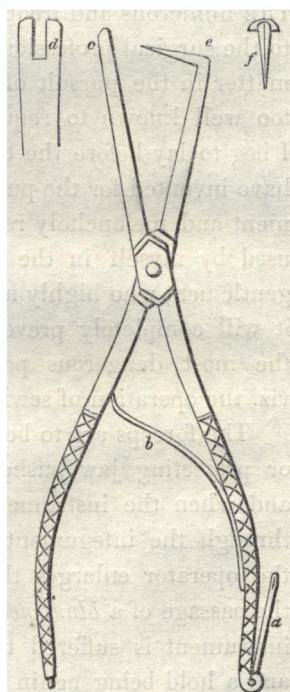
I am, &c. &c.

A. AIKIN, Esq.

Secretary, &c.

THOS. BAGNOLD.

In the annexed figure, *a* is the clip, *b* the spring, *c* the lower jaw, with a slit cut at the end of it, as shewn at *d*; *e* the upper jaw, the end of which is turned down at right angles, and is made sharp at the end, so as to pierce a hole through the integuments by pressing it through the slit in the lower jaw. *f* is an end view of *e*, shewing a groove or channel made in it to serve as a guide to the needle.



Jan. 20, 1834.

I have seen and used Captain Bagnold's instrument for sewing up bodies, and consider it a most efficient and simple contrivance for the purpose. The great desideratum was an instrument that would save time in this tedious operation, and one that could be used without danger of injury, as it is well known that many lives have been lost by punctures produced by the common needle. These two great advantages are most completely combined in Captain Bagnold's instrument. I shall never use any other myself; and should predict that in a few years no other will be used — its preference is so apparent.

SAMUEL LANE,
Lecturer on Anatomy, No. 1, Grosvenor Place.

Jan. 22, 1834.

I have used the instruments invented by Captain Bagnold for sewing up bodies after pathological investigations have been made in the dead subject, at St. George's Hospital, in the presence of a great number of medical students, and I find them perfectly to answer the purpose for which they are made, viz. the preventing the risk of puncturing the fingers of the operator.

H. HUTCHINS,
Apothecary to St. George's Hospital.